

SMU Debate at 15 years: 2008 - 2023

In the fall of 2008, SMU realized a dream of re-starting its debate program that had been out of existence for many years. The original goal as envisioned by Meadows Dean Jose Bowen was to *create a top five national debate program within five years*. Despite a number of significant limitations and setbacks, that dream has been substantially realized ten years later. Key accomplishments for the program in the past ten years include:

- **Top Novice Speaker in the nation at the Mid America Debate Championship in 2011**
 - Mid America Nationals Debate Championship, First Place in Novice debate 2013.
 - **Top varsity debater at IPDA nationals in Houston, Texas 2016.**
 - Top varsity debater at Pi Kappa Delta nationals in IPDA in Lexington, Kentucky 2016. [DSR-TKA is the oldest forensics honorary organization in the country.]
 - Won the Texas varsity state IPDA championship [Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association spring champions] spring 2018.
 - **Won the junior varsity International Public Debate Association nationals championship season long top speaker award—Barbara Jordan Award—for IPDA Nationals 2018.**
 - **Won the National Championship in Junior Varsity IPDA in Shreveport, Louisiana 2019.**
 - Finished as the #5 rated overall IPDA debate program in nation at 2019 National Championship in Shreveport, Louisiana.
 - Helped fund and create the nation's first HBCU National Debate and Speech Tournament with a grant of over \$300,000.
 - **Won the International Forensics Association World Championship in 2022**
 - Won top Novice Speaker in the nation for 2022
 - **Won top four varsity debater at IPDA National in Boise, Idaho 2023**
 - **Dr. Voth is editor of the leading journal of debate— *Argumentation and Advocacy***
- More than 2,500 community and campus members at more than 60 public debates.
 - More than 700 undergraduates taught in classes how to debate and do public speaking events.
 - More than 120 undergraduate competitors winning awards for SMU off campus.

SMU Speech & Debate Location

○ 330 Clements Hall

○ Dr. Voth's Office and Practice space

○ Weekly Meetings on Thursdays at
7pm in 241 Umphrey Lee